



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces Public Information Meetings for the Discussion of Green-Stick Gear Authorization for Atlantic Tunas

NMFS will hold four public information meetings to discuss details related to authorization of green-stick fishing gear for Atlantic tunas including bluefin tuna. The purpose of the meetings is to communicate details and issues related to gear authorization including gear configuration and definitions, quota management, catch reporting, and other related topics.

Currently, green-stick gear meets the definitions for longline or handgear, depending on the configuration, and may only be used aboard vessels possessing the permits necessary to use longline or handgear. Authorization of green-stick gear for Atlantic tunas could provide for less restrictive use of green-stick gear when and where appropriate.

The public information meetings will be held at the following locations:

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| <u>June 19, 2007; 7:00-10:00 p.m.</u> | Roanoke Island Festival Park, 1 Festival Park, Manteo, NC, 27954 |
| <u>June 20, 2007; 2:00-5:00 p.m.</u> | NOAA/NMFS Headquarters, 1315 East-West Highway, Bldg. 3 Rm. 1311-B, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 |
| <u>June 21, 2007; 7:00-10:00 p.m.</u> | Boyden Library, 10 Bird Street, Foxboro, MA 02035 |
| <u>June 25, 2007; 7:00-10:00 p.m.</u> | NOAA/NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 263 13 th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701 |

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretations or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Randy Blankinship at 727-824-5399 at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

For more information on current green-stick gear requirements (including a diagram of green-stick gear configuration) or green-stick gear authorization, please see the HMS Management Division website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms> or call Randy Blankinship at 727-824-5399.

Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN — 8 2007

Date

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